

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 558

By Durham

A RESOLUTION recognizing Cooper William Erby for being an inspirational young man who is awesome in all respects.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those young Tennesseans who stand as inspiration to us all; and

WHEREAS, young Cooper William Erby, a superhero who has fought against a most nefarious nemesis for nearly five years, is one such awe-inspiring young man; and

WHEREAS, diagnosed at the age of four as having an anaplastic ependymoma, a rare and aggressive brain tumor, Cooper stands now, at nine years old, as a testimony to the strength and resolve of the human spirit; and

WHEREAS, since being diagnosed with anaplastic ependymoma, Cooper Erby has undergone a number of treatments designed to eradicate the enemy – cancer. Following his first surgery on March 2, 2009, a surgery which lasted twelve hours during which doctors attempted to remove the tumor, Cooper bravely underwent thirty-three radiation treatments over the span of six weeks, armed only with his vivacious spirit, his zest for life, and the love of his entire family, including his parents, Teresa and Scott Erby, and his siblings, who rarely left Cooper's side; and

WHEREAS, Cooper received his radiation treatments at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, where doctors, nurses, and staff members worked together to provide the finest, most cutting-edge medical treatment for this wonderful young man; and

WHEREAS, Cooper and his family left St. Jude with a good prognosis, but twelve weeks later they returned to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, where doctors first diagnosed his brain

tumor, to discover the enemy had more dastardly plans in store for the family. The cancer had spread to Cooper's lower back; and

WHEREAS, undaunted by the return of his enemy, Cooper remained upbeat, buoyed by his Superman-like strength and his family's faith in God. Following a second surgery, this time at LeBonheur Children's hospital in Memphis, one in which ninety-percent of the tumor was removed, Cooper underwent weekly chemotherapy treatments at Vanderbilt over the next ten months, followed by another thirty radiation treatments at St. Jude; and

WHEREAS, through it all, Cooper has been brave, positive, and funny, facing this adventure with a verve and determination which inspires everyone around him. His positive attitude and fun-loving spirit have brought him through the darker times and enabled him to once again beat back his vile nemesis, cancer; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly fitting that this body recognize this young man who, when faced with challenges that would quail many of us, stood strong and has never given in; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize Cooper William Erby as a young hero who is super in many, many ways, extending our best wishes to him for his continued health and well-being and applauding this young man for being an inspiration to us all.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.